

# Letter from the Chair

## J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board

The Fulbright Program is one of America's most valuable and effective means for increasing mutual understanding among the people of the world. In a time when public diplomacy has taken on heightened importance and when there is a renewed appreciation for the study of foreign languages and the need for cultures to become better known and understood, international education exchanges are increasingly valued for their lasting contributions. The Fulbright Program stands out among these as the flagship exchange program, attracting new generations of students, scholars, teachers and professionals, even as its distinguished alumni engage in ongoing activities that insure the Fulbright legacy.



In recent years, an important priority for the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board (FSB) has been recruitment and outreach activities that engage wider audiences to achieve increased access and greater diversification of the Fulbright Program. We welcome Fulbrighters from all over the world, from rural provinces and small towns as well as from great urban centers, just as we send Americans from all regions of our country abroad. We want participants to come to America — and go out from America — leaving positive and lasting impressions on the institutions and communities where they live as Fulbrighters.

Achieving these priorities has been very gratifying. In this report, we are happy to share just some of the inspiring stories that show the dynamism of the Fulbright Program, accounts of Fulbrighters in the far reaches of the globe making contributions through their exchange activities. We are also pleased that alumni continue to engage communities and build bridges of understanding years after their exchange experiences have concluded. This report features a world gallery of stories with inspiring testimonials and vignettes about Fulbrighters making a difference. In the Western Hemisphere, an American Fulbright-mtvU Fellow to Panama promoted the role of music in mutual understanding by documenting artists of Spanish reggae music there. From Asia, a Fulbright Visiting Scholar from Kazakhstan shared her Muslim traditions in her home country with a variety of audiences at her host institution, a community college in Central Florida. In Africa, a Ugandan Fulbright alumnus and talented woodcut artist uses the inspiring gift of his art to encourage greater awareness about HIV/AIDS.

It is inspiring to me to review this collection of stories from the past year and to share them with a wider audience. Having been privileged to serve as the Board's Vice Chair, and now as its Chair, I have had the opportunity to engage Fulbright grantees and administrators in the United States and abroad in Peru, Bulgaria, Egypt and Greece. I am always impressed by the enthusiasm, intelligence, and curiosity of the grantees. I am equally impressed by the commitment, dedication and expertise of the administrators. For my part, I have tried to impart something of the rich history of the Fulbright Program and the vision of the man whose name it bears. The late Senator Fulbright continues to speak to us in these words, "Educational exchange can turn nations into people, contributing as no other form of communication can to the humanizing of international relations." In this annual report, we seek to convey through stories and photographs the essence of these very special grantees who are changing nations into people and who have played a part in making the Fulbright Program a national treasure and a solid investment in our future.

Shirley M. Green, Chair  
J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board